

Fax

To: RENATA HESSE, DOJ

From: CHAD OLSEN

RE: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

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Date: 23 JAN 2002

Chad F. Olsen
300 South Fifth Street
Guthrie Center, IA 50115
23 January 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

The Department of Justice and Microsoft deserve praise for their work in settling the Microsoft anti-trust case. The federal government and the nine states that joined the settlement know that settling this case is good for the nation's economy. As the owner of a business that depends on a high level of consumer confidence I am very aware of our fiscal health.

The government's pursuit of Microsoft over the last several years has had a real impact on the technology industry. Evidence of this is found in slow software sales and the sinking value of technology stocks. The negative results of this case are not limited to the technology industry.

Many Americans have their retirement or saving funds wrapped up in some sort of 401(k), IRA or pension fund, and many of these funds are partially dependent on technology-based stocks. When the government's case against Microsoft gained steam and threatened a break-up, tech stocks crashed, and Americans from all walks of life saw the value of their savings and retirement funds plummet.

The feeling of uncertainty created by a bearish stock market quickly affected other areas. Consumers stopped spending money, hurting small businesses like mine. Workers felt the tightening, too, when corporations stopped hiring new employees and/or laying off existing ones.

Additionally, all reports that I have read indicate that this settlement is an equitable agreement that provides tough remedies for the portions of the complaint that have been upheld in court.

Please support the Microsoft settlement.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Olsen